

LEON COUNTY JAIL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TITLE: USE OF THE EMERGENCY RESTRAINT CHAIR

PROCEDURE: 6.25

REVISED: 10 SEPTEMBER 2003

EFFECTIVE: 18 NOVEMBER 2002

RESCINDS: NEW

REFERENCE: F.C.A.C STANDARD 6.13

PAGES: 5

- A. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines for the use of the Emergency Restraint Chair.
- B. **SCOPE:** This procedure shall apply to all Corrections Personnel.
- C. **POLICY:** It is the policy of the Leon County Jail to use restraints including the Emergency Restraint Chair to prevent inmates from harming themselves, and others or causing property damage to the facility.
- D. **PROCEDURE:**

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE

- 1. Authorization for use of the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be given for the following criteria only:
 - a. For the control of inmates displaying dangerous aggressive or disruptive behavior that may or does result in physical harm to themselves, staff or other inmates.

L.C.J./S.O.P. 6.25

- b. For the control of inmates displaying extremely disruptive behavior that may or does result in facility property damage (e.g. kicking out windows, damage to doors or repeated attempts to do the same).
 - c. Under no circumstances shall restraints, including the Emergency Restraint Chair, be applied to an inmate for the purpose of punishment.
2. Only the following may authorize the use of the restraint chair:
- a. The Jail Administrator
 - b. Bureau Captains
 - c. Watch Commanders
 - d. Booking/Housing Sergeants

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1. An Emergency Restraint chair shall be kept in booking and housing (unit two) at all times.
- 2. If possible, Medical personnel should be present when an inmate is being placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair however, this is not a requirement.
- 3. Whenever possible, inmates will be pat searched prior to being placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair and all jewelry removed if possible.
- 4. Whenever possible inmates will be fully clothed when placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair.
- 5. Restrained inmates shall be separated from other inmates and have limited contact with staff.
- 6. The person authorizing the use of the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be responsible for seeing that a Response to Resistance Report is completed before his tour of duty ends and is forwarded to the Jail Administrator.

L.C.J./S.O.P. 6.25

7. Only staff trained in the proper use of the Emergency Restraint Chair may apply it, and all applications shall be supervised by a sergeant or higher authority, who also shall be trained in the proper use of the Emergency Restraint Chair.
8. At a minimum, the personnel required for the proper and safe application of the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be Four (4) Correctional Officers, one of which must be a supervisor and all must have training in it's use.
9. Additional hand or ankle restraints and if necessary head protection (e.g. helmet or spit mask) may be applied to an inmate placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair.
10. Inmates placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be under Direct Observation by correctional staff at all times.
11. Once placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair, the inmate shall be re-evaluated, within two hours for the removal from the Emergency Restraint Chair. The Booking/Housing Supervisor may authorize discontinuing of the Emergency Restraint Chair if the inmate is calm and compliant with orders. The decision to continue placement in some form of restraints shall be made by the Watch Commander, or higher authority. The originating circumstances and current behavior of the inmate shall be the subject of the re-evaluation. The Emergency Restraint Chair may only be utilized for up to two hours afterwards, then if necessary, some other form of restraints must be used.
12. Removal of an inmate from the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be supervised by a sergeant or above.
13. The Restraint Chair/Four Restraint Flow Sheet shall be used to document the removal from the Emergency Restraint Chair. The information on the flow sheet shall include the date, time, reason for removal and authorizing person.
14. All inmates shall be checked by medical upon removal from the Emergency Restraint Chair. Any injuries to the inmate will be checked and treated by medical staff.
15. After each use, the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be sanitized (wiped down) and all buckles and straps on the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be returned to the ready position in accordance with training.

L.C.I./S.O.P. 6.25

OBSERVATIONS

1. The Restraint Chair/ Four Point Restraint Flow Sheet shall be started at the time of placement and maintained throughout the duration of the time the inmate is in the Emergency Restraint Chair. Fifteen (15) minute observations shall be documented on the flow sheet.
2. An inmate who is placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair shall have their restraints checked for tightness every fifteen minutes by correctional staff. If a lack of circulation is observed the discovering member shall notify the Booking/Housing Supervisor and assistance shall be mustered to adjust the restraints. Medical Personnel shall be notified of any circulation problems or possible injuries and shall document them.
3. Inmate complaints of pain, circulation problems or other medical issues requiring partial or total removal of restraints to allow for medical examination shall require a sergeant or higher authority and at least two other correctional officers present.
4. All temporary removal of restraints shall be documented on the Restraint Chair/Four Point Restraint Flow Sheet.

APPLICATIONS

1. The following procedures are recommended when practical, for the placement of an inmate into the Emergency Restraint Chair:
 - a. Handcuffs and shackles are to be placed on the inmate with all keyholes facing upwards (towards the inmate's head) to ensure easy access. Uncooperative or combative inmates may need to be placed in the prone position on the floor to accomplish the aforementioned
 - b. Correctional officers will escort the inmate to the Emergency Restraint Chair with each one of the inmate's arms and shoulders being controlled with a firm grip.
 - c. During restraint application, one officer shall take a position behind the chair to control the inmate's head. One officer will stand on the right side and one will stand on the left side of the inmate to control his/her arms and shoulders. One officer shall stand ready to control the legs.

L.C.J./S.O.P. 6.25

- d. The supervisor shall ask the inmate to be seated in the chair. If the inmate refuses the command(s) to sit in the chair, then he/she shall be placed in the chair by the attending officers.
- e. One officer shall secure the leg irons chain in the retainer and secure the handcuffs using the handcuff tether.
- f. Secure the lap belt free end in the lap belt clevis, and pull the handle until snug.
- g. Release one wrist from the handcuffs and secure it to the arm of the Emergency Restraint Chair with the wrist strap and pull until snug. Secure second wrist and remove handcuffs from the handcuff tether.
Caution: Do not cut off circulation to the hand(s).
- h. Fasten the shoulder strap by passing the free ends over the shoulders, under the armpits, and secure them to the shoulder strap clevises located on the back of the chair. Then tighten by pulling down on the shoulder strap handle.
Caution: Do not wrap the straps around the chest, head or neck.
- i. Secure the ankle strap by passing the free end around the front of the ankle and securing it to the ankle clevis, then pull the ankle strap handle until snug. Remove leg irons.
- j. Once the inmate has been placed in the Emergency Restraint chair, check all restraints to ensure they are all secure. Medical staff shall check to ensure that the inmate has proper circulation and is re-checked hourly.

E. Indexing:

Emergency Restraint Chair
Use of Emergency Restraint Chair

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